

**CLARK COUNTY  
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION  
Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, October 3, 2001  
6:00 – 9:00 PM  
Clark County Public Works Department  
Conference Room  
4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vancouver, Washington

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**Call to Order**

*Roll Call:*

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robbie Agard, Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Dana Kemper, Susan Rasmussen, Don Steinke, Art Stubbs and Peter Tuck

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Mary Martin

Clark County Public Works Staff

Bud Cave, Susan Finch, Cindy Meats and Earl Rowell

Audience

Virginia VanBreeman

*Introduction*

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and audience, were introduced. Chair, Commissioner Kemper, then called the meeting to order.

*Agenda and material review*

The material for tonight's meeting include:

1. 9/19/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting notes; and
2. Operations and Maintenance Program Update.

Also Included are:

- Summary Outline of Outreach and Education;
- Clean Water Activities packet; and
- Sample of slides shown in various theaters.

*9/19/01 notes*

The notes from the 9/19/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting were approved as written.

*Updates/Communications from the public/media/agencies*

Clean Water Fund (4420) audit update:

As part of the auditing process the Auditor's Office may contact one or more of the Clean Water Commissioners to ask questions regarding the Clean Water Program. We have requested for the Auditor's Office to give a presentation (an overview of the audit process) to the Clean Water Commissioners. It is anticipated that once a

final report is issued, the Auditor's Office will provide an overview of its findings to the Clean Water Commission..

Mr. Bourlet: Do they have an outline of questions that they typically ask during an audit?

Mr. Rowell: There is a generic outline (or flow chart of the process) that it is still being developed. ,

Mr. Bourlet: I'd like to get a copy of that.

Mr. Kemper: We have requested that the auditor's office submit their work plan to us by the November 7, 2001 meeting. We have also asked them to provide us monthly updates until the audit is complete.

Meeting schedule:

Mr. Kemper: Now that the work sessions with Jeanne Lawson and Associates are complete, I would like to suggest that we go back to meeting only on the first Wednesday of each month.

2003-2004 budget:

Mr. Bourlet: When are we going to start work on the budget?

Mr. Kemper: We will begin working on the budget after we receive the auditor's report otherwise we will be doing duplicate work.

Mr. Agard: I disagree with that. The auditor is checking to see if the dollars are going where they were supposed to go. In the budget process we are trying to allocate the dollars where we think they will do the most good.

Mr. Bourlet: My understanding from budget discussions last year was that we wanted to look at the possibility of us as a Commission recommending to the Board of County Commissioners where some of the money should be allocated. Mr. Rowell, when does your department start work on the new budget?

Mr. Rowell: We will start on the 2003-2004 budget beginning in March of next year (2002).

Mr. Bourlet: This Commission should make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners before you start working on the budget.

Mr. Rowell: You can make a recommendation to the BOCC anytime during the budgetary process. The way the process works is we will develop a draft budgetary plan and submit it to the Director of Public Works for review. The Director of Public Works along with the County Administrator reviews the draft budget and submits it to the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval. This is a yearlong process with several opportunities for revision and recommendations.

Mr. Rowell: My suggestion would be to review the auditor's report and then use that information to help fine tune the 2003-2004 budget, this should occur after the first of the year.

Mr. Kemper: We can always go back to meeting on the first and third Wednesday, if needed, during January and February.

Mr. Tuck: Even if the auditor's report is not ready after the first of the year, we still need to start working on our budget recommendations.

By laws:

Mr. Kemper reviewed with the Commissioners the mission of the Clean Water Commission, which is to provide advice and recommendations to the Board on Clean Water related issues.

The Commission shall:

- ◆ Represent a balanced interest in storm and surface water treatment and regulation;

- ◆ Make recommendations to the board of county commissioners on such matters as the focus of the Stormwater Management Program, program service levels, financing, and policies on surface and stormwater issues;
- ◆ Report to the board its recommendation for creating an incentive program through which service charges may be adjusted in circumstances where property owners significantly reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff;
- ◆ Report quarterly and provide an annual report;
  - Which will include:
    - Establishing the criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the program and set forth the criteria in order to make an annual report to the Board.
    - A plan for the upcoming year in addition to evaluating the effectiveness of the program in the preceding year in the annual report;
    - A summary of revenues and expenditures by watershed, zip code, or other easily identifiable geographic means, and
    - A summary of public comments.
- ◆ Promote clean water/stormwater program coordination among other agencies, groups and citizens at large.

Mr. Kemper also reviewed the Expectations of the Clean Water Commission. Members of the Clean Water Commission are expected to make considerable commitment in the following areas: regularly attend meetings and workshops; prepare for meetings; participate in the discussion of issues; advise the Board on issues that are difficult for both their implications and complexity. The Board requires and expects careful analysis by the Clean Water Commission on the issues reviewed by them. The Clean Water Commission should expect controversy in making decisions and make timely decisions. Clean Water Commission members should also understand the distinction between applying policy and recommending policy.

Mr. Kemper included that the Clean Water Commission needed to be careful not to overstep those boundaries. They can recommend but not require. The Clean Water Commissioners need to respect staff and act professional during the meetings.

Mr. Bourlet: If this Commission feels strongly about something we should make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Agard: I would like to be able to express my views. At the last meeting we received a report from the Watershed Stewards and I'm very disappointed in the number of people currently attending the program. I want to make sure that County staff and this Commission knows that I'm disappointed.

Mr. Agard asked if the Clean Water Commission meeting dates could be added to the ESA newsletter.

Mr. Rowell: Yes..

### **Public Input**

Ms. VanBreeman: I participated in my first River Rangers presentation for three classes of 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Union Ridge Elementary in Ridgefield. It was a lot of fun and the 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed it very much.

Ms. Rasmussen: Did you have any props or literature?

Ms. VanBreeman: Yes, there are posters, it is a very interactive program between the presenter and the children.

Mr. Kemper: How did the one at the Water Resources Center go?

Ms. VanBreeman: It went very well.

**Update:**

*Maintenance and Operations:*

A few of the Clean Water Commissioners expressed an interest in touring the Decant facility. County staff will arrange a visit for the Clean Water Commissioners.

Mr. Cave: The information that I have prepared today is right out of the NPDES permit. I followed the permit on the different activities that we are required to perform. The NPDES requirement is the incremental change from what we were doing two years ago to where we are now.

Street Sweeping: I brought a map that identifies where we've been and where we are each day. The NPDES permit requires that we sweep each one of the neighborhood streets nine times per year. Arterioles are swept twelve times per year.

Mr. Bourlet: Is this adequate or should the numbers be higher or lower.

Mr. Cave: Our numbers are consistent with other agencies. We have noticed a substantial difference in the amount of debris that gets into the storm systems.

Mr. Cave: Catch Basins are Inspected and cleaned as necessary if they are 1/3 or greater full.

Mr. Tuck: Is there any way to keep a record on each round to see how many tons you pick up?

Mr. Cave: I will check on that, I'm not quite sure if we are trying to measure by the yard or lane miles.

Mr. Bourlet: Your staff is educated on the importance of clean water and it shows through their work.

Mr. Cave: Our staff went through various training's to better understand erosion control.

Mr. Agard: I would like to know how much grass clippings you pick up. If it has increased and become a problem, I would like to go to the BOCC and request an ordinance change.

Mr. Cave: I will check on that.

Mr. Stubbs: I think it would be a good idea if we had our Clean Water Commission meetings at different locations in the County in order to potentially reach more people.

Ms. Rasmussen: I like your idea Mr. Stubbs on having meetings at different areas around the County. Mr. Cave if you perform testing on the debris that you bring back in, then we could provide that feedback to the public.

Mr. Cave: We might not be able to provide specific enough information for particular areas. If you are interested in yardage or how much material was processed, we can provide you with that information.

Ms. Rasmussen: I would like to go to different Communities and educate people on reducing the amount of fertilizer they are using.

Mr. Kemper: Where are you at regarding maintenance and tracking?

Mr. Cave: We put together a simplistic software database so we can load all the information and compute a running total. We are in the process on implementing a new Maintenance Tracking Management system. The goal is to give us better data and better reporting. We hope to have it in place by December of this year.

Mr. Tuck: How will Maintenance problems be tracked?

Mr. Cave: Right now it's through a verbal process, with the new system they will be able to enter work requests and track its progress.

Mr. Kemper: Will it be integrated into the mapping system?

Mr. Cave: Yes, it will have a direct tie.

*Education Activities:*

Ms. Meats: Included in your packet of materials are existing programs and/or products we have produced. I will go through each of them in more detail:

Natural Yard Care Campaign –We are determining the steps necessary for one to become a natural gardener.

Displays – We have three displays that we use for special events.

1. Household Hazardous Waste;
2. Natural Yard Care Display and;
3. The Clean Water Display.

Publications: There have been numerous publications developed, included are:

1. Clean water begins at home;
2. How to be a salmon friendly gardener; and
3. Clean water program newsletter.

Advertising: We ran some slides in some of the Clark County theatres, and ran ads in area newspapers.

Workshops: We participate in cooperative workshops with the conservation district and WSU Extension.

EIC operates a library and referral service out of WSU Vancouver, which provides environmental education to the public. More specifically, they provide teacher workshops as part of the clean water fee waiver program. In the future we would like them to be more involved in the planning of outreach and education programs.

Community and Special Events: We were represented at the following events:

Home and Garden Fair; Clark County Fair; 2 Watershed Festivals; Lacamas Lake Festival; Columbia River Watershed Festival; Senior Fair; Earth Week; Water Week; Vancouver Neighborhood Conference; and a mini natural garden fair at Home Depot.

Business Outreach and Education: Mr. Cary Armstrong has been working with businesses doing technical and site visits. He is also working with Stormwater BMP's in the schools.

School fee waiver program: All schools are participating in the clean water fee waiver program except the La Center school district.

Earth Savers – The solid waste section developed this program which is an environmental program for middle school age children that involves the students in tracking energy and water use within the schools.

We are in discussions with the Student Water Quality Monitoring Program and Washington State University to see if they will be the mentoring agency to help promote water quality monitoring in area high schools.

River Rangers: Since January 2001, we have given 23 presentations to 675 students. There are 29 volunteers on the roster though not all are active.

Storm Drain Stencils: There were several volunteers involved in drain stenciling throughout the summer months.

Ms. Meats: In the future we would like to develop a comprehensive long-range outreach and education program for the Clean Water process. We will be forming a committee that will begin planning stages on setting up this program and will identify the mission, message, and audience. We would like to have a member of the Clean Water Commission on this committee.

Mr. Kemper: How are these programs funded?

Ms. Meats: Some were funded by grants, but as those end the Clean Water Program fees will provide the funding.

Mr. Agard: I would like to know which ones the Clean Water Program fees funded and which ones it will fund in the future.

Ms. Meats: Clean Water Program fees will fund the following programs:

The Watershed Stewards program; the Clean Water Display; Clean Water Program Newsletters and Advertisements; The business education program; the School fee waiver program; and the Student water quality monitoring program.

Ms. Finch introduced her self and explained her position within Clark County Public Works. Ms. Finch is the Senior Communications specialist for the Public Works department and also works with the Public Information and Outreach department of the County. Her office is in the Public Works department and almost all of her work is within the Public Works Department. She was hired to oversee all of the pieces of public information for transportation, solid waste and recycling, clean water, the sewage treatment plant, and operations and maintenance.

Mr. Stubbs: I found out that most of the brochures that are produced are not looked at or read. At the Clark County Fair the brochure that got the most attention was the Natural Gardening booklet.

Mr. Agard: I am concerned when I see a drop of 20 participants to 7 participants in the watershed stewards program. I want to see the program be successful and if there is any possible way that we can change it to make it more interesting then we should look into that.

Ms. Meats: We will be looking into that. This program is successful in other areas, such as King County and there is no reason it cannot be successful here as well.

Ms. Rasmussen: We need to identify what barriers are keeping people away from this program.

Mr. Bourlet: We are spending lots of money on the watershed stewards program and we are not getting a return for our money.

Mr. Agard: With the clean water fee waiver program in the schools, I know that it involves solid waste programs as well. I want to make sure that we don't over load the schools with requirements that are beyond what the ordinance calls for.

Ms. Meats: We've had positive comments in meeting with all the schools regarding the curriculum and they were excited about the program.

Mr. Bourlet: Can we add to the next agenda recognition people of the community who are doing things for clean water?

Mr. Stubbs volunteered to be a part of the education task force committee.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting will be held on, Wednesday, November 7, 2001.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Kemper adjourned the Clean Water Commission meeting at 8:30 p.m.

### **Looking Ahead**

- 2001 Annual Report - Start work November 7<sup>th</sup>
- CPU Monitoring presentation/Steve Prather – December 5th
- CIP Framework presentation/Sam Giese – December 5th
- Watershed Stewards Quarterly Report/Gary Bock – December 5th
- Election of CWC Officers for 2002
- 2003-2004 budget – Start work in January/February

*Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost*

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